- A proforma to screen all persons disembarking in India for symptoms of suspected/probable SARS cases has been prepared and handed over to Immigration Bureau.
- The health care facilities at International Airports and Ports have been strengthened by deploying additional doctors and evolving a standard operating protocol. The health staff is monitoring passengers of flights and ships arriving in India to report any suspected case and to take further appropriate action.
- National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi and National Institute of Virology, Pune have been identified as the nodal agencies for laboratory investigation of any suspected/probable case.
- Facilities for treatment of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in isolation have also been arranged in the Central Government Hospitals as also in other Infectious Disease Hospitals.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has held coordination meetings with concerned Ministries and with WHO.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has obtained the required primers for preparing reagents to diagnose the viruses believed to be causing SARS.
- Media is being kept informed on the efforts made by the Government to prevent SARS from entering the country and to create public awareness.
- The situation is being monitored on day-to-day basis.

(d) As per World Health Organization's information a total of 3293 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) cases have been reported till 16th April, 2003 with 159 deaths in 22 countries.

Unrecognised MD degrees by Medical Colleges

3133. SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that reputed Medical Colleges in Delhi are doling out MD degrees that are neither recognized by MCI nor by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the value of such degrees is negligent and if so, the reasons of awarding such degrees; and

(d) whether Government propose to take up the matter with the concerned Medical Colleges for necessary action and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the Postgraduate medical courses being conducted in a few Non-Teaching Specialist ntitutions in Delhi are yet to be recognised by the Medical Council of India and he Government. These courses were started prior to the commencement of the ndian Medical Council (Amendment) Act, 1993, when there was no requirement for obtaining prior permission of the Central Government for starting a new course. There are also few courses run by University College of Medical Sciences, Delhi; Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi and Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi for which the institutions concerned have already applied to the Medical Council of India for their recognition.

(c) A person having unrecognized degree/diploma qualifications, cannot get registration as an additional qualification under section 26(1) of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 (IMC Act, 1956) with the State Medical Councils or the Medical Council of India and further that he/she cannot serve as recognised teacher in Government hospitals/institutions of the country.

(d) As per section 11(2) of the IMC Act, 1956, an institution is required to apply to the Central Government for recognition of the medical courses conducted by it. The Central Government, after obtaining the recommendation of the Medical Council of India issues the necessary notification for inclusion of the said course in the Schedule to the IMC Act, 1956. The institutions which are yet to obtain recognition of the courses conducted by them under section 11(2) of the IMC Act, 1956 and the affiliating University are advised from time to time by the Medical Council of India for getting their courses recognised by the Central Government.

Increase in AIDS, TB and Malaria

3134. MISS MABEL REBELLO :

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incidence of AIDS, TB and Malaria is on the increase;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years, State-wise;